Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I refresh your memory and ask you whether that observation was not contained in a speech by the Diwan?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want notice.

Tramway working.

453. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement in the following form with regard to the working of the O. W. C. Range served by the Tramway for each of the last 10 years from 1096 to 1105;—.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Year	Quantity of timber collected to be carried by the Tramway	Total collection charges for 2	Hill depot measurement of 2	Quantity of the same carried down by the Tramway	Measurement of 4 at the time of sale, etc., in the plains	Shortage of the measurement, i. e., difference between 4 and 6	Amount realised by the sale, etc., of 6	Expenditure on Tramway	Balance of the stock of timber to be sold every year brought down by the Tramway

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is not possible to reply to the question because:—(a) i. The O. W. C. stock had to be completely renumbered, the original numbers having become worn out, during the verification of stock in 1100, and it is not therefore possible to trace out their original numbers and measurements given at the time of collection.

ii. Some of the Chalakkudi Depot record necessary for tracing out the required information were lost or spoiled beyond the possibility of use during the floods of 1099 when the depot office building was under water.

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(b) Even if all the records were available, the time and labour involved in collecting the information may not be commensurate with the results obtained.

Ernakulam Municipal Electric Scheme.

454. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether there are any defects or drawbacks of a technical character in the scheme proposed by the Municipal Council;

(2) if there are, what are they, and were they ever pointed out to the Municipality;

(3) are not the Government aware that the Municipality had incurred substantial expenditure in the preparation of the scheme;

(4) did not the Municipal authorities assure the Government that the scheme, if sanctioned, would enable them to introduce electric lighting for Ernakulam even before November 1929;

(5) would the Government be pleased to state the objection, if any, for sanctioning the scheme forthwith?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) The chief drawback is the inadequate provision for the cost of the scheme. This has not been pointed out to the Municipality yet, as the figures regarding the installation of electric lighting in Trivandrum which were required for purposes of comparison have not been received.

(3) A sum of Rs. 500 was sanctioned for the preliminary expenditure.

(4) Yes.

(5) Government are doubtful of the capacity of the Municipality to finance the scheme and run it. They will issue orders as soon as possible.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—(1) Is it not tantamount to saying that it was not brought to the notice of the Municipality? Then the chief drawback is the inadequate provision for the cost of the scheme. Will you explain that a little?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The scheme provides only for putting mains in the streets. The scheme contemplated the supply of energy from Mattancheri. That proposal which includes the putting of transmission lines across the backwaters requires revision. It would be satisfactory to take electrical waves from Mattancheri for the supply of energy in Ernakulam. There are many technical difficulties which will arise on such a proposal. For shipping facilities lines have to be put very high, at least 40 or 50 feet high. These are the main difficulties technically. So the Government thought whether it

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